Fellowship
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LAOS "CRISIS" UNDERLINES U.S. ROLE IN POWER STRUGGLE

The first days of the New Year saw a sudden flurry of excitement over e southeast Asian kingdom of Laos that in a breathtakingly short time seemed have perched the world on the edge of war again. Communists were reported have invaded Laos from North Vietnam with the evident intention of overthrowg the pro-Western government of Prince Boun Oum. President Eisenhower ored a military alert in the area and, as one paper put it editorially, "Even osensibly sane men began to murmur, This is it.'" For the second time in vo years a stretch of nearly impassable ingle populated by two million peacel and primitive people seemed on the erge of plunging the whole world into onflict.

By January 6 the crisis had begun subside and embarrassing questions ere being asked about its origins. aken together, the emerging facts emhasize something that Americans who ope to contribute to building world eace must realize: that the Commuist nations are not alone in using the echniques of power, including cloakand-dagger subversion and plotting, but hat our own government is up to its eck in acts and policies that morally re hard to distinguish from those of he other side.

The present "crisis" erupted as a esult of the overthrow of the neutraist government of Prince Souvanna houma and its replacement by the proestern Boun Oum. That coup is widely nd unembarrassedly reported as havng been engineered by the United tates, which had supplied arms to eneral Phoumi Novosan, who led the evolt.

The "Geneva agreement" which nded the fighting in Laos in 1954 pecified that the little country was to e neutral in the East-West struggle. The United States refused to accept the greement and, in the words of the British Labor Party's foreign affairs spokesman, MP Denis W. Healey, has "organized the overthrow of one neutral government after another." Even the conservative *New York Times* declared editorially (Jan 2, 1961) that "the ideal arrangement for Laos was the neutralist, coalition Government brought about by the International and Joint Commissions . . . in 1954."

The current "invasion" appears to have been almost wholly imaginary. The president of the Southeast Asia Treaty

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Wondering About Cuba?

The breaking off of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba has not broken off the doubts and questions of many Americans who have more than headline familiarity with Castroland. Has the Cuban revolution--described last month in a National Council of Churches report as "a forthright effort to replace injustice with justice, ignorance with education, large land holdings operated under a system of peonage with land reform"--been irreparably corrupted? Has it been "taken over" by the Communists?

FELLOWSHIP sent Sidney Lens, able political reporter, to Cuba to bring our readers up to date. His report will appear in the March 1 issue of FELLOWSHIP.

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Laos "Crisis" *(cont'd)*

Organization, itself a creation of the late John Foster Dulles, along with other responsible officials on the scene, has reported no evidence to support the claim that invasion has occurred. It seems true that Soviet planes have been air-lifting arms to the leftist Pathet Lao forces in Laos, but in this the Communists have simply done the equivalent of our own actions. The question now is: who created the crisis that produced all the saber-rattling (and might have produced much worse) and why?

A footnote to this is the denial by *The New York Times* military analyst Hanson Baldwin that Laos is "strategically important" as a military corridor. While it lies between Communist and non-Communist states, its mountainous, jungle country and almost total absence of roads and railroads mean that "it could scarcely serve as a major invasion highway for anyone...no big armies are going to penetrate its vastness and still remain big armies."

Peace Corps Plan Studied By Religious and Voluntary Groups

Representatives of religious groups and voluntary agencies meeting in Washington, D.C., last month cautioned Congressional sponsors of the "Point Four Youth Corps" that the plan "has many great possibilities, but needs careful development if it is to succeed in its purpose." The group welcomes the idea of a constructive overseas service for young Americans but questioned whether it should be an alternative to military service. They observed that young people dragooned into the program by the threat of otherwise serving in the military might not prove happy or efficient workers.

Meanwhile, a $10,000 study of the program is now under-way in Washington, D.C., by the Colorado State University Research Foundation headed by FOR member Maurice Albertson. The group is working against a Feb. 1 deadline for proposed legislation and a May 1 deadline for their final report.

Cuba, Congo Reports to NCC; Stress Need of New Attitudes

A dramatic report on the crises in Cuba and the Congo, made to the December meetings of the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches in San Francisco by that body's Department of Foreign Missions, laid heavy stress on the need for Americans to enlarge their understanding of the revolutionary struggles that are convulsing much of the world. While not understating the role of communism in both situations, the report was blunt about the sins of both omission and comission on the part of this country and the West generally, both in the pre-Revolution and post-Revolution periods. Its concluding paragraphs reminded its hearers of Americans' lack of concern for the suffering of Cubans under Batista and for the present suffering of hard-hit peasants in Brazil, and asked whether Americans "really care about the abolition of poverty outside the United States....for people as people."

The report on the Congo was made by Dr. George Carpenter, a former missionary to that country and a secretary of the International Missionary Council. The Cuba report was made by Dr. Howard Yoder, executive secretary of the Department's Committee on Latin America. Both men are FOR members and serve on the North American Committee of the International FOR.

NEWS from the peace front

A dozen or more nations will be capable of building atomic bombs within six years and, if they do so, some of these weapons will have been exploded in the next ten years through "accident, or folly, or madness" according to Sir Charles P. Snow, British physicist, speaking in New York City last month. He told American scientists that these predictions were made with certainty and urged them to take a "direct and personal responsibility" in seeking a restriction on nuclear armaments to avoid such a calamity. The 99.9 percent security sought by the United States at the Geneva test-ban talks "simply cannot be achieved," he said; the most feasible prospect for the immediate future is a detection system efficient enough to discourage violation of a nuclear-test ban.

* * *

Two commemorative stamps picturing Mahatma Gandhi will be placed on sale on Jan. 26, it was announced by the U.S. Post Office Department last month. The stamps, of 4-cent and 8-cent denomination, will pay tribute to Gandhi as a "Champion of Liberty" and will carry the slogan "Apostle of Nonviolence."

Also, a Charkha, or hand spinning wheel, will be pictured on the special postmark to be used in Washington, D.C. on the date of issue. The wheel became a symbol of Gandhi's nonviolent revolution when millions of Indians spun their own cloth as part of a boycott against tax-ridden English goods. Above the Charkha will be the slogan "From darkness to light," the motto of his Indian independence campaign.

* * *

Hundreds of West Tennessee Negroes in Haywood and Fayette counties will be hungry this winter unless they receive financial help. The Negroes, who were ordered off their land because they registered and voted, have been exiled or driven to living in tents. "People living on the land 40, 50, and 60 years are being uprooted," said one Negro leader. "They have no idea where they are going." One of the Negroes, a service station owner, has been denied fuel by major oil companies, thus depriving a supply to farmers in a wide area.

Contributions for Fayette County should be sent to John McFerren, Rt. 4, Box 133, Somerville, Tenn.; for Haywood County to C.P. Boyd, Rt. 1, Box 182, Stanton, Tenn.

* * *

An American Legion attempt to block issuance of an incorporation charter to the Society for Social Responsibility in Science was denounced last month as "an attack on freedom of assembly and discussion in the United States," by FOR member Victor Paschkis, president of the group. The Legion contended that the Society, if successful, would endanger national security, and asked the court in Bucks County, Pa., to reverse its order granting the charter. Replying to the Legion's charge, Dr. Pasch-

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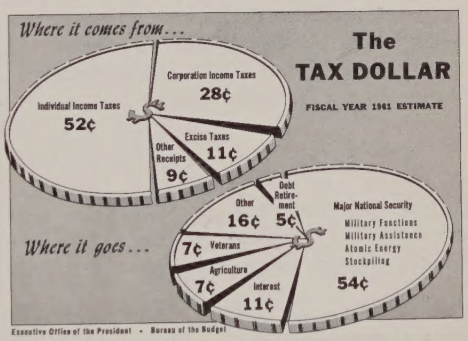

Since the above graph was prepared, the 1961 Federal Budget Midyear Review has revised the estimates. Main points of change: Individual Income Taxes are up to 54¢ (with a corresponding 2¢ drop in Corporation Income Taxes); Major National Security is up to 56¢ per tax dollar. In absolute figures, $505 million has been added to the Defense Department's outlays, $87 million of this for missiles alone, for a total "national security" budget of nearly $46 billion -- more than ten times as much as the allocation for labor and welfare.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please allow 4 weeks—supply both old and new address.

kis said that the SSRS is working "for the highest interests of the U.S.A. Scientists who realize that both East and West now have the power and means to destroy the whole world would be irresponsible and insane if they continued to help prepare this destruction."

* * *

International Voluntary Service, a pacifist work camp organization, needs financial aid to help build homes and schools and provide education for children orphaned by the 6-year-old Algerian war. Contributions should be sent to IVS, 72 Oakley Square, London, N.W. 1, England.

LIT NOTES

Copies of "Nuclear Warfare -- What is the Responsibility of the Christian in this Age?" by IFOR Co-Treasurer John Nevin Sayre are available from Fellowship. Reprinted from *The Witness*, this 8-page article argues the case for Christian pacifism and shows how some recent historical, psychological and sociological developments undergird the pacifist position. Price: 5¢ each. Order from: Fellowship Publications. Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

* * *

"The World Church and the Problem of Peace" by FELLOWSHIP Managing Editor William Robert Miller is now available as a 4-page reprint at 5¢. The article, which was originally featured in *United Church Herald*, discusses the pacifist implications of the world-wide ecumenical movement and relates personal commitment to the task of the church in seeking unity "above all nations." Order from: Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

MISSING MEMBERS

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing members, please advise the Membership Secretary, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Here are the names, with last-known addresses where available: James L. Bartin (Des Moines, Iowa); Walter R. Bieder (Buffalo, N.Y.); Laurence L. Bilek (St. Paul. Minn.); Paul Billings (Boston, Mass.); Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Binns (Greer, Ariz.); Barbara Black (Adrian, Michigan); Rev. Everett C. Edinburgh, Scotland); Charles W. Black (Adrian, Mich.); Rev. Everett C. Black (New York, N.Y.); Grace Blackford (Sacramento, Cal.); William J. Blackburn III (West Branch, Iowa); Carnie Blanchard (Ann Arbor, Mich.); Mrs. Willie B. Blanton (San Antonio, Tex.); Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Bonham (Chicago, Ill.); Samuel Borton Jr. (Audubon, Penna.); Adam F. Bortz III (Meadville, Penna.).

DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Wednesday. New York FOR informal luncheon discussion meetings at 12:45 p.m. at the Interchurch Center cafeteria, 475 Riverside Drive, N.Y.C.

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